II. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* Nicolas Witſen, *Burgermaſter of* Amſterdam; *giving a farther Relation of the Horrible burning of ſome Mountains of the* Molucco *Iſlands.*

AT preſent nothing offers it ſelf, except a farther Relation of the horrible burning of ſome Mountains of the *Molucco* Iſlands: whereof I formerly gave ſome account to a very Eminent Member of the *Royal Society*. Wherefore, I make bold to ſend you the true Tranſlation of ſeveral Letters ſent to me from thoſe Parts by the laſt Ships. To which I add, That the Mountain *Kemas* or *Brothers*, in the Territory of *Manado*, is blown up with a moſt dreadful noiſe, as of the hardeſt Thunder, which cauſed Darkneſs and Earthquake, with very heavy Blows, and other diſmal Signes at *Ternata*: which Noiſe hath alſo been heard at *Amboyna*. The Mountain of Brimſtone upon *Amboyna*, called *Wawany*, does alſo burn dreadfully.

From all which it ſeemeth evident that in thoſe Parts and Seas, there are Subterraneous Fires, having a mutual Communication one with another: Which God knoweth but may ſome time cauſe the ſudden ſubverſion of them, and conſequently a notable Change or Alteration of the Worlds Globe. Thoſe who have ſeen theſe things with their own Eyes, and are arrived from thence laſt Year have told me, that when a hole is made in the Ground 10 or 12 Foot deep, the Ground is warm.

And ſo after hearty Salutation, I remain,

Yours, &c.

Copy of a Letter Witten in the Molucco *Iſlands, in the Year* 1695, *to the Burgermaſter* Witſen.

TO give you ſome account of things happened at *Banda*; I muſt tell you, it hath pleaſed God to let us ſee his wonderful Works, and Mighty Hand, upon the 20th of *November* of the laſt Year, which hath never been ſeen by any Perſon now living.

On the about the Evening was ſeen a very thick Smoak about the top of the Mount *Gounong Apy*, which was much augmented on the 21 and 22, and that Night the Flame broak out: On the 23, 24, and ſome following Days, the Fire was continually increaſing on the Weſt ſide, and with ſuch blows, as if the greateſt Pieces of Canon had been diſcharged: So that we were fearing that the whole Mountain ſhould have been caſt upon us. A day of Humiliation and Prayer was Proclaimed by the Government againſt the Seventh throughout all *Banda*. Sometimes the Mount brought forth ſuch a noiſe, as the greateſt Storms can do about the Rigging of a Ship, or a Building on Shoar, and afterward followed the Stones on the Weſt ſide as far as the Sea, which was a horrible Spectacle. Fiſhermen have related unto me, that ſo many Stones have been caſt out already, that the place where they uſed to fiſh with Lines at 40 Fathom water is now dry, and the Fire cometh forth out of the Water ſo vehemently, that it is dreadful to ſee, and the Water is ſo hot that we cannot come near it. And now the Mountain burneth moſt towards the ſide of the *Loutoir*. The Trees on the Eaſt and Weſt ſide are altogether ſpoil'd, and the Weſt ſide is covered with Stones God knoweth how high. The ſtink of Brimſtone during the Weſterly Monſoon,

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is ſo intollerable, that one could ſcarce endure it in the Streets of *Neira*. The Noiſe continueth yet. How God Almighty will be pleaſed to diſpoſe of us, is known to him alone.

It cauſeth a great Sickneſs on *Neira*: The Water which raineth down, is by reaſon of the Brimſtone and Saltpeter become ſower and without a natural taſt. The Gardens which were on the *Gounong Apy*, and formerly brought forth great ſtore of Fruits for Mans livelihood are partly covered with Stones, and partly Deſert. The greateſt fear is becauſe it is conſumed inwardly towards the old hole, which was blown up in the Year 1615, and becauſe the Fire ſeemeth to take its courſe towards the South-Weſt, and that it being quite hollow there will tumble inwardly, or be ſubverted. I have been as near the Fire as I could approach, but the exceſſive Noiſe, and caſting of Stones made me draw back ſpeedily.

Copy of a Letter Written by another Perſon from Banda, *to the ſame Burgermaſter.*

THE Mount *Gounong Apy* keeps us ſtill in a continual fear, bringing forth a Noiſe and Stones, and we ſee nothing but Fire and Flame, which is continually increaſing. It caſteth out Stones round about the Mountain, and the Fire aſcendeth ſo high, that we can ſee it above the high Land at *Denter*, as it happened the ſixth of this Month that the Stone and the Flame went up above the high Land, which was horrible to ſee.

Extract of another letter from the ſame place to the ſame Man.

WE are in fear becauſe of the Mount *Gounong Apy*, which burning continually doth caſt out ſo great a quantity of Fire and Aſhes, that the Trees of the Country *Neira*, and part of thoſe on the high Country of *Loutoir*, is ſo much covered with Aſhes, that not one good Fruit is to be expected from them.

Copy of a Letter to the Burgermaſter Witſen, *from the* Molucco *Iſlands the* 11*th of* June, 1695.

IT is almoſt impoſſible for me to give a particular account of the preſent ſtate of *Banda*; for at *Neira* there is neither Leaf nor Herb. The Ground is covered with Stones and Aſhes; the Trees look juſt as thoſe of our Native Country in Winter; one half of the high Country is likewiſe in a ſad condition, many Trees be wholly or partly dead, and the reſt lingring. If we are to have ſuch another Weſt Monſoon, all will periſh to which that Wind can reach. Not one Houſe at *Neira* is demoliſhed, ſeveral are quite without damage to the Ground by the weight of the Duſt and Aſhes; and if all hands had not been continually at work to take and carry it off, not one Houſe had been left ſtanding in *Neira*. One of my Houſes is down. Thoſe of *Denter*, *Weyer*, *Celam*, and the inward Coaſt, as far as *Waling*, have likewiſe a ſad experience of this Calamity.

We are ſometimes viſited with Earthquakes; and eſpecially on the 11th of *May*, about 2 a Clock in the Afternoon, we had two hard motions: Finally *Banda* meets with many Croſſes.